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1	SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING	
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5	HELD:	
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7	Thursday, January 26, 2017	
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9	LOCATION:	
10	Council Chambers	
11	Scranton City Hall	
12	340 North Washington Avenue	
13	Scranton, Pennsylvania	
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23	CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER	
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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL: JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT WAYNE EVANS WILLIAM GAUGHAN TIM PERRY LORI REED, CITY CLERK KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK AMIL MINORA, SOLICITOR

(Pledge of Allegiance recited and moment of reflection observed.)

MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

MR. PERRY: Here.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

MR. ROGAN: Here.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

MR. EVANS: Here.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

MR. WECHSLER: Here. This evening before we start the council meeting, I am aware that the Pennsylvania American Water bills have been received at homes and we do have an announcement concerning those water bills. The new PA American Water bills were mailed out and several residences have contacted council office with questions concerning these recent bills. You will see on your bill under the heading "Adjustments" a line that reads, "Converted sewer balance." This is the amount of your December bill that you would have received

from the Scranton Sewer Authority. If you made that payment already, simply deduct this amount from your current water bill. You had receive the proper credit of the payment for both bills and will not be considered in arrears or charged any interest or fees. If your last sewer bill hasn't been paid, just deduct the amount from this current bill and send the amount owed. You are not being doubled billed.

Going forward, the waste water service charge will be listed on your bill every month. Water and waste water are now combined and will appear on the same bill that you receive each month from the Pennsylvania American Water Company.

MR. ROGAN: Some additional information on that as well, I know we all were inundated with calls today regarding this, this was in response to Executive Director Shrive from the Sewer Authority and it reads, "Councilman Rogan, pursuant to your request of information with regard to discrepancies in the resident's sewer water bills, I reached out to a representative of

the Pennsylvania Water Company and was informed that any issues with billing are being taken care of in a result of transitioning from the Sewer Authority billing to Pennsylvania American Water Company billing in a relatively short period of time prior to the new bills going out.

Certain payments made may not have been reflected on the newly listed Pennsylvania American Water Company bills, but customers will be given full credit for all payments made. Pennsylvania American Water Company has indicated that it will not be charging late payment penalties, interest or shutting off services in connection with the transition billing issues so residents need not be concerned with that.

Pennsylvania American Water Company hopes to have these billing issues addressed by the release of the next billing statements. This is the information I was able to obtain from the Pennsylvania American Water Company. Please feel free to share the same with your fellow members of council and the public. Thank you. Jason

Shrive."

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MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, I have two 2 3 announcements. First, just on the water bill fiasco, I was at a neighborhood meeting 4 last night, and I'm glad my colleagues 5 announced that, but some of the people that 6 7 came to the neighborhood meeting actually 8 brought their bills with them and they were 9 elderly people and it really ticks me off 10 that the water company is so incompetent. 11 They have known this deal was going to take 12 place for the past year, and yet this type 13 of thing happens so I think that the 14 ratepayers should be compensated for the water company's incompetence and the 15 16 inconvenience and the confusion it caused, 17 especially with people who are in their 80's 18 and 90's who have paid their bills their 19 whole entire life and who got something in 20 the mail that said they were past due and 21 caused undue stress in a lot of people. Second announcement, Friends of 22

Second announcement, Friends of Shannon McDonough Splashin' with Compassion, I have announced this for the past few weeks, it will held this Saturday, January

28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Montage

Mountain in Scranton, PA. They are a local

501-C organization supporting young

individuals battling cancer in Northeastern

Pennsylvania, so I urge everybody to get out
to that.

And there will be a free home repair from Neighbor Works Northeastern

Pennsylvania from July 21 to July 24.

Approximately 250 adult and teenage volunteers will come to Lackawanna County from all across the northeastern portion of the United States to do service work, especially home repair projects, for approximately 35 to 45 modest income or disabled homeowners in the east Scranton community who need a helping hand with all the work done at no cost to the homeowner.

Volunteer groups will work on various projects including porch repair and construction, step repair, exterior painting, free solar security light, interior painting, wheelchair ramp repair and construction and weatherization.

You can apply by picking up an

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application at Representative Marty Flynn's office, 409 North Main Avenue or NWNEPA 1510 North Main Avenue, or you can visit the website www.nwnepa.org for an application and the deadline to apply for this is a February 25 of this year. Thank you.

MR. WECHSLER: We're out of sequence a little bit this evening, does anybody else have any announcements? I just have one. The first 2017 Scranton Neighborhood Summit meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at Scranton Police headquarters. This is an opportunity for all active neighborhood leaders to come together and share update from each of your respective neighborhoods, along with presenting new ideas, issues and events, regarding the neighborhoods inner city. Ιt will also be an opportunity to get updates from the Scranton Police Department and to meet the 2017 community development neighborhood beat officers. District Attorney Shane Scanlon will also be attending this meeting.

MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING 1 DECEMBER 31, 2016. 2 3 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any 4 comments? If not, received and filed. MS. REED: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S 5 REPORT FOR HEARING DATE TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 6 7 8, 2017. 8 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any 9 comments? If not, received and filed. MS. REED: 3-C. AGENDA FOR THE CITY 10 11 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD JANUARY 25, 12 2017. 13 MR. WECHSLER: Are there any 14 comments? If not, received and filed. MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS' 15 PARTICIPATION. 16 17 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz. 18 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz, 19 city resident and taxpayer. Mr. Wechsler, I 20 want to compliment you on updating the 21 public on the status of the broken elevator 22 in the Linden Street parking garage which 23 you did this afternoon on WILK radio. 24 That's the kind support that public needs, 25 it's the kind of service we need, you are

the man.

MR. WECHSLER: For tonight. For tonight.

MR. HODOWANITZ: Speaking of being the man, I'd remind you all that it's only 285 days until November 7, the date of the next general election, and I hope there will be two important documents released long before then, the Arcadis storm water analysis, and by gosh and by golly, the 2016 city audit that we shall see.

Like many people, I read with great interest the article in this morning's newspaper about the local services tax, LST tax, and lawsuit that was brought to prevent it from being tripled. I have no idea whether there is any substance to this lawsuit or not, but if the plaintiffs were no win their case we're looking at a \$3 million hole in the 2017 budget and if this thing drag out will we be looking at the possibility of LST revenues going in an another escrow account like rental registration did?

MR. WECHSLER: Well, actually we are

still waiting for the judge to decide if we are eligible for it or not, so it would depend on that. We are still waiting for a ruling.

MS. HODOWANITZ: But their response is filed in response to the city trying to triple it again so --

MR. EVANS: Yeah, it hasn't been collected yet, so I'm sure that will decided before -- over here, Joan. It hasn't been collected yet, so I'm sure that will be decided.

MS. HODOWANITZ: Let's hope that it goes in the city's favor because we don't want to see another \$3 million hole.

MR. EVANS: I agree.

MS. HODOWANITZ: And I noted that on January 20th the 2017 budget was posted to the business administrator's web page, thank you, but it did take 43 days since December 8 and I think that's just too long, and I wish that the administration as a matter of routine, I would think that five to seven days are long enough to post documents like the audits and the budgets. It shouldn't be

43 calendar days and it shouldn't be after many requests that it finally gets posted. Speaking of the city's website, Mr. Gaughan, can you give us an update in fifth motion about council's webpage and when the public will see all of these wonderful background attachments? I can give it to you MS. HODOWANITZ: Go ahead. The iPads, all of the equipment has been ordered, we just have to replace one computer in our office. should be getting trained probably by next week on the program and within the next maybe two and a half weeks everything should Mid-February? MR. GAUGHAN: That's what I'm Okey-dokey. MR. GAUGHAN: The city has been -our staff and the IT Department have been

trained on the programs so it's just a matter of getting us the equipment, training

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us, which won't take long because our end is pretty easy, putting the link on the website, which shouldn't take long, and all of the backup will be put up.

MS. HODOWANITZ: And somebody,

anybody during fifth motion please update us on the status of the pension reforms and the third party administrator for the pension plans, and finally I was at the county commissioners yesterday, one of their agenda items, University of Scranton was requesting county support for a state grant and that has to do with your famous athletic field and they were asking for \$5.8 million of state taxpayer dollars via a state grant, and the only reason that kind of irritates me is, Marie helped me find this, but this is on their own website, their finances for 2016/17, they have revenue budgeted at \$225 million, expenses budgeted for the same, but the market value of their endowment, this is icing on the cake, \$165 million. Now, why they need \$5.8 million of tax revenue from the state via grant is beyond me, and this is the organization that gives the City of

Scranton \$175,000 in lieu of taxes. to tell you, I have two degrees from that institution and it's a good school, but they are not hurting for money and I don't think that they need tax dollar revenue to upgrade that sports complex. It's a nice project, but they have the money to do it. MR. WECHSLER: Les Spindler. MR. SPINDLER: Good evening, Council. Les Spindler, city resident and

homeowner and taxpayer. Councilman Wechsler, just so I have this straight, on the water bill where it says "waste water," that's going to be your new sewer fee right

MR. WECHSLER: It is going to be a basic of \$19.50 per month and then the sewer

Okay, when I looked at my bill I thought that was an extra fee

MR. WECHSLER: That's your sewer

MR. SPINDLER: Because I did call

and they said just subtract, because I already paid mine yesterday and they just --

MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, mine was due tomorrow so it was on mine.

MR. SPINDLER: Okay, just so I have that straight. Thank you. First of all, I was here two weeks ago, I spoke about a hole down by the Doherty Street softball complex, I was happy to say I walked by there the next day and it was covered with a board already, so I want to thank whoever took this quick action, Councilman Perry, Councilman Rogan, I know you guys spoke about it so --

MR. PERRY: It goes to DPW.

MR. SPINDLER: The DPW did that?

MR. PERRY: And it's just a temporary fix until we get out there and do something more permanent.

MR. SPINDLER: I was going to say it was just temporary, but I think they could have done a little more, maybe put caution tape around it, but at least they were out there very quick. It was less than 24 hours later so that was a good job.

MR. PERRY: Thank you.

MR. SPINDLER: A letter to the editor in the Sunday Times of January 15 by James Mulligan. He was critical of the mayor for not letting council know about the \$12 million shortfall and I have a quote by him. It says, "It's unconscionable that Mayor Courtright would keep council in the dark as it relates to one the of the largest and most important transaction in the City's history."

If memory serves me correct,

Councilman Wechsler, your vote had no
bearing on the sale of the Sewer Authority
anyway; correct?

MR. WECHSLER: No, it did not.

MR. SPINDLER: To me, this is nothing more than a political move by Mr. Mulligan. In today's paper he said he is thinking about running for mayor, he is running for mayor because one of my bosses at work said he was already knocking on his door looking for a vote. So this is just a political move and I guess trying to get a jump on everybody else, but I think it's

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just sour grapes because he lost three years ago.

Okay, next. Last week, Councilman Evans, you were asked two questions about finances and you didn't have answers to either speaker. One speaker asked you a question and you said, "Where did you get that information from?"

You shouldn't be asking the speaker questions, they ask you the question. I brought this up a long time ago, when Frank Joyce was Finance Chair he had all of the information in front of him. Every week people came and asked him questions, he had the facts and figures in front of him. I don't think you are qualified to be our Finance Chair. You never have any -- don't laugh. You never have answers.

MR. EVANS: First of all -- first of all, most of the questions are directed to the administration. We don't have to answer anything.

MR. SPINDLER: It's a fact.

MR. EVANS: But I do get all of the answers I'm asked in a timely manner.

2 didn't have them last week. And Frank Joyce 3 never asked a person where did you get that information from, and Councilman Rogan and 4 5 can back me up on that. He was prepared, he had all of his facts and figures in front of 6 7 him every single week. If he couldn't 8 answer it that night, he had it the next 9 He had all of his information with week. 10 him. He was a very qualified Finance Chair. 11 You should follow suit, but you are not 12 qualified. MR. EVANS: That's your opinion. 13 14 MR. SPINDLER: It's a lot of people's. It's a fact. 15 16 MR. EVANS: No, that's your opinion. MR. SPINDLER: It's a fact. 17 18 MR. EVANS: Not a lot of people --MR. SPINDLER: It's a fact that 19 20 Frank was well prepared. 21 MR. EVANS: It's not even close to 22 being a fact, but, go on. 23 MR. SPINDLER: Frank never had to go 24 week-to-week, he had all the answers next 25 week --

MR. SPINDLER: I disagree.

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MR. EVANS: Frank Joyce was a great gentlemen, but that's --

 $$\operatorname{MR}.\ \operatorname{SPINDLER}:\ \operatorname{It's}\ a\ \operatorname{fact}.$ He was well prepared. Thank you.

MR. WECHSLER: Bob Bolus.

MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council.

Bob Bolus, Scranton. You know, I stopped to look and I see the incompetence that flows through this city, not only through the mayor but through the council. What you people have done, you have literally destroyed this city. Don't tell me you are builders, because you don't what the real world is.

You took the Parking Authority, it's \$53 million was the original debt, you got \$23 million roughly. You still have \$30 million in standard debt left plus the interest, so when you're all done and you start adding in the bond issue fees and everything else, you are over \$37 million plus the interest. You stuck us all with that and you got rid of the asset, but the incompetent, the total ignorance that I have seen here is you had to even vote for this,

turned around and paid William Conaboy

1.463,512.48. Do you realize that? For the

Parking Authority for legal representation,

and then you have another 100,000 on it.

Then you added another \$200,000 for

Abrahamsen, and another 30 here and another

50 there for the parking garage?

I mean, what is with you guys? Who in God's name gets that kind of money in the city? Why didn't you put it out for bid? You all stood here and voted for it. When you put the recovery plan in, Mr. Gaughan, everybody, you were all part of this. The sewer deal, the parking garages, you have literally destroyed the city, each and every one of you.

You know, people worked hard here.

You gave an asset away and then I turned around and the best part of this, I couldn't stop laughing. You wrote a check to Basalyga, not even to his corporation, you wrote it to John Basalyga for \$4,150 some thousand and 719 dollars and 20 some cents.

Where were your heads? To pay for parking spaces because of competition. Like, what

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the hell is competition?

You ever been in business? Wendy's competes with McDonald's. Starbucks with this one, it's called competition, yet you people blew over five million -- well, six, almost seven million dollars to Basalyga on a \$1 sale on the garage and then paid him to fix it. What kind of an incompetent thinking did you people even go? What school did yous go to? Wayne, you are a businessman, you have been in real estate. Joe ran corporations. Is this how you ran your business? You destroyed in this city. You are chasing business out and you are chasing people out. Yet you sit and hand this guy the money upfront already for the mall for parking spaces. Geez, do I have a Do you have a for Bob Bolus that says he has spot number 52? Wayne, do you got a number for your parking space? What about your customers? Joe, you got yours. I'm sure you got one the biggest ones probably in the parking mall. They probably got red roses laying there for you to walk in there and say geez, look at what I did for the

city. God, Mr. Basalyga, you got to do more for me than this.

You haven't even looked at reassessing the mall. Do you realize that? It's assessed at \$3 million. \$3 million and you gave him 6 million. You guys got your heads on straight? I hate to come in and insult you, but that is such a gross, gross thing that I have seen here and you are all responsible. There is no one -- I ready your letter in the paper, Mr. Gaughan, but with the recovery plan you included this. You can't just skirt around the issues.

You guys allowed this mayor and the incompetence with the people he has got down there that couldn't even figure out how much money you have coming. Did you ever see, Mr. Evans will tell you, when you do a closing you have a bring down sheet; am I right or wrong, Mr. Evans?

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MR. BOLUS: And it tells you what are you going to go in the end. Where was that? Who is the geniuses that did the closing for a million five, a million five

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in legal fees and you still don't even know where your money is? Wait until you get the Sewer Authority deal, what did you pay them five or six million dollars? Think about what you guys have done here.

You know, we have a new president in this country, people are arguing and criticizing, but at least it's a person who is going to make a change because you got to make an authority work and you haven't done that. You know, we are talking about Mexico, we are talking about buying here and buying there, we could go around the compass, yet Steve Corbett said you're blowing the mouth off about avocados from Mexico and everything else, the news media need to report factual. Let's see Corbett come in here and talk about you guys, how much money you spent and you're running for reelection.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.

MR. BOLUS: One more thing, you know, when I said --

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$$ WECHSLER: Mr. Bolus, your time is up.

1 MR. BOLUS: -- tell you in American 2 here, I believe in what goes on here, Mr. 3 Wechsler --MR. WECHSLER: Your time is up. 4 MR. BOLUS: I understand where 5 you're at, you like to shut people up. 6 7 MR. WECHSLER: No. 8 MR. BOLUS: Let me tell you 9 something, Pal --10 MR. WECHSLER: Your time is up. 11 MR. BOLUS: -- you're running for 12 reelection, I'll have a trailer for you 13 because you are the last guy that should sit 14 in that seat. Thank you. MR. WECHSLER: I would honored if 15 16 you put my face on a big trailer. 17 MR. BOLUS: You heard what I said. 18 Don't worry about it. I'll be one of your 19 biggest sponsors. 20 MR. WECHSLER: Lenny Serebro. 21 MR. SEREBRO: Lenny Serebro, 22 Scranton resident. You know, I feel so 23 small after Mr. Bolus with my problem, and 24 maybe that's just it that it bothers me that 25 my problem is so small and I believe it can

be resolved so easily and nothing gets done.

How about the meeting that was supposed to

be this past Tuesday? I know it was

cancelled.

MR. PERRY: It was cancelled, waiting on a date to reschedule.

MR. SEREBRO: Because of the weather, I understand that, but now is it going to be forgotten about or just postponed?

MR. PERRY: Absolutely not.

MR. SEREBRO: Is there another date?

MR. PERRY: We are waiting on a date for everybody to come together, council, the water company and DPW and the city engineer.

MR. SEREBRO: Okay. See, I had
Pennsylvania Water Company out there six
months ago, I asked why DPW can't come out
and fix the road that the rains, you know,
the heavy rains we had during the summer,
you know, washed the road away and there is
giant potholes, so I contacted the water
company to come out and look at the
situation and they said they would take care
of it because there is, I don't know what

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you call it, like, a pipe that comes out of the ground, it's actually stamped "water." It's in the middle of how the road is all broken up, you know, pieces of blacktop are everywhere, but anyway, they looked at the situation because their water pipe carries -- anyway, they said they would resolve the problem, they would come and do a hot patch. You know, it's got to be like eight foot eight foot, you know. Cars are losing hub cabs and stuff coming down this road, but I asked them about the problem with the six inch drainage pipe that's in the corner there and he couldn't understand why DPW can't contract them, they have the equipment, to come and flush the drain. Не looked at it while he was there checking out the road situation and he was like, yeah, you got a problem, look at, it's packed solid there. Why don't they flush it?

But he says that Pennsylvania Water

Company is looking for stuff like that to do

and I said, you know what, I'm going to

bring that up at the next council meeting.

Why can't we flush that drain? I ask it

every time I'm here. Any answers?

MR. WECHSLER: That's why we contacted the city engineer and the DPW an and we are looking for the same answers you are. I can't tell you why they are not doing this.

MR. SEREBRO: Well, I have been here for a month or two.

MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Serebro, the meeting was set up for Tuesday and it snowed. We are going to reschedule the meeting. We are asking the questions. We cannot answer them for you. We have to get the professionals to do it, and I disagree that you saying that we are not doing anything about it when we have the meetings scheduled.

MR. SEREBRO: I didn't say you're not doing anything about it.

MR. WECHSLER: Well, you're saying you're not getting any answers, we are asking the questions and we're waiting for the answers just as you are, and you have asked the question each week and we try to answer it each week or update it each week,

but I don't have that answer for you. Mr Perry doesn't have the answer.

MR. PERRY: Well, you know, I understand and I know where your frustration is coming from, I definitely do, and that's why I was disappointed that we had -- you know, we've had such a mild winter but the day we had all of the powers that the can couldn't get kicked down the road that particular day because everybody was going to be there it got cancelled an hour before we had it set up.

MR. SEREBRO: And I understand the weather, you know, I figured it wouldn't happen.

MR. PERRY: Well, that's a reason, but, I mean, it's still an excuse as well. I just want to make sure that we get this meeting reschedule as quickly as possible for all parties because it's a drain that's full that needs to get cleaned out. It's as simple as that. I just want get this done as much as you, I really do.

MR. ROGAN: I think all five of us were going to be there.

MR. WECHSLER: I was going to miss it.

The majority of us were

MR. ROGAN:

on board and trying to help you.

trying to work around our work schedules to attend. You know, it's a simple problem and it should be a simple answer.

Unfortunately, the problem is government on all levels is it's never simple and we are trying to work through it and Councilman Perry, I know, has been putting in a lot of time of trying to work with PA American Water to get people out there. We are all

MR. SEREBRO: See, I want to tell you there is another resident who I just spoke this past week that says they can't handle it anymore. They're moving by the end of month. There is going to be another vacant house, and I want to tell you right now the house that's actually next door to my garage now there is -- that guy moved out because of the flooding problem, and just today I discovered there is homeless people living in that abandoned house now. You know, what I worry about is like somebody

1 trying -- I have nothing against homeless people, but if they try to keep warm and 2 3 start a fire in the basement of that house, now my garage goes up and the next thing 4 5 that goes is the house. MR. WECHSLER: Could you leave that 6 7 address with -- Mr. Serebro, could you leave 8 that address of that home? 9 MR. SEREBRO: Yes. MR. WECHSLER: The address so we 10 11 could get --12 MR. SEREBRO: You know, and I called 13 the city and I made a report but I don't 14 know how far it's going to go. MR. WECHSLER: Well, we'll follow up 15 16 tomorrow. 17 MR. SEREBRO: Okay, it's 227 Dewey 18 Street. Thank you. 19 MR. WECHSLER: Mary Gaughan. 20 MS. GAUGHAN: Good evening. My name 21 is Mary Gaughan, Adams Avenue, Scranton. 22 First of all, I would like to thank Council 23 President Wechsler for the lighting. He did 24 attend some of lights, but there are still 25 lights out on Lackawanna Avenue. There is

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lights out in front of Senator Blake's There is lights out, I went to the post office at Steamtown the other night, There is lights on the facade of it's dark. the Steamtown Mall that are out, and there is still a significant number. The last time I looked the light behind the Hilton to Kressler Court between Kildare's and the back of the Hilton is out, and about three months ago there was an accident there, an accident reconstruction team came out during the day. They didn't see the most obvious problem. The accident occurred because the light was out and the individual involved, I guess, I don't know if he hit a motorcycle patrolman or whatever happened, but something happened there and it would be advisable if somebody is doing an accident reconstruction after they take the measurements during the day they should go out in the evening when the accident occurred and see what the situation looked like.

And another thing, I with down at the mall last week and I was very pleased.

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There were Lackawanna County detectives in the Starbucks and they were watching three people and they apprehended all three people with the assistance of the Scranton Police Department and our taxpayer money was well spent that day. And those officers couldn't have been more professional to the man that they had on the floor, but he had five or six box cutters. I saw a holster for a gun and they said he had 45 bags of heroin. was one of three people they apprehended. I watched the takedown of the one man and it was textbook. They respected his rights and they respected him, and I want to say on behalf of the people of Scranton they did a fantastic job.

Now, another thing that has to do with the Sewer Authority, the sewer bills, the water company, as a ratepayer and taxpayer I'm very perplexed about some things that have happened. I don't know, is the Sewer Authority sold to the water company or is it in limbo?

MR. WECHSLER: It's sold.

MR. GAUGHAN: Well, then why did we

appoint somebody \$130,000 to replace Gene Barrett?

MR. WECHSLER: Because they still have some business to conduct.

MR. GAUGHAN: Well, \$130,000 worth of issues it sounds to me like the money you got from the sale of the Sewer Authority if that's how it's going to be frittered away I don't understand it, and I also heard, the last council meeting, I believe, that someone was appointed to a term on the board until 2022. I have an idea what happens about boards and they go on junkets and they go for dinners and lobsters and everything else, and I think that we are put upon enough by having the waste water fee.

Now, I don't understand it and I'm not criticizing because I don't understand everything, but I don't know how the water company was allowed to cherry pick what they wanted to purchase and let the city and the ratepayers holding the bag for the part of the system that was very expensive to manage. Thank you for listening.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

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MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you.

MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman.

MR. ELLMAN: Hello, Council. This doesn't have anything to do with me being up here, but in the 60's, I never met Debbie Reynolds, of course, but I took care of her parents' swimming pool. Just thought I'd throw that in. I never saw nobody though. Never saw her, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren.

Council was supposed to be an engine, a leader for this city. Somebody referred to you guys as the caboose. are not just doing a job for the people. You follow this Amoroso plan to the end and it's destroying the city except probably the mall and downtown. A third, maybe just a quarter, but I have been told a third of this city or more people are just not doing well. They are lower income, the neighborhoods look terrible, the houses look terrible. I have been here almost 25 years and I have seen the street sweeper -- well, I used to see it pretty often coming from DeNaples in the morning at 6:30 or so on

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Washington, but I haven't seen it in years and I haven't seen it front of my house maybe three or four times in 25 years. I don't have no curbs. Cigarette butts and garbage every time it rains are all over the sidewalk. The sidewalk is slates that must be 100 years old, and now with all of this money.

You know, we have so sold the airport, the golf course, the South Side complex, there is who money for any of these things, now the Sewer Authority. One of the most important assets we have it's gone. There is nothing to account for it. I still don't have no sidewalks. Last month my water bill was \$80 and my sewer bill was Tonight I opened up that bill it was \$83. \$230. Thank you, guys. Everybody knew the rape of the city is coming. Bulzoni and Amoroso live like royalty. They don't pay no school taxes, no city taxes thanks to Mr. Courtright, and this is what we get. Не promised one thing, Amoroso, raise taxes like 81 percent and sell everything.

See, Mr. Picollino has

underestimated this man. He is doing one hell of a job. Now that he has finished that part of it he has got all of this time to keep everybody from approaching any of the nonprofits and try to get something in lieu of the taxes. That hadn't been accomplished in 100 years, and these are the people that are responsible for the destruction of this city. Like I said, it's the mall and downtown that will always be protected by you people.

This wasn't a sewer deal. You people were never in this deal to be in a -- this was American Water deal. To control something you got to have this end, this end and the middle. You never controlled nothing. Nothing about this deal. That's why it's a failure. I sat here six months ago when by friend in Little Rock from Prudential base told me that if I have any money to start buying American Water stock because it's going to skyrocket. Now you can start seeing it, can't you? This is what you have done to the people of this city.

Well, I certainly support Mr. Duffy and Mr. McMillan, Mr. Piccolino, but I'm going to support and endorse Johnny Superstar like I do every year and hope he gets somewhere this year. We are at the point, what can we do about all of this? You know that Pepsi Cola plant moved out? Yeah.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
Mr. Ellman.

MR. ELLMAN: Nobody did a thing in the world to stop it.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
Mr. Ellman.

MR. ELLMAN: Nobody got off their can to say, we'll give you some kind of endorsement to stay here just like Hesser. Where was Mr. Amoroso when they manufactured out two months ago? Where were you guys? That's what's wrong with the city, just like Mr. Bolus just said it's just the government of this city has just gotten away from the taxpayers.

MR. WECHSLER: Is there anyone else?

MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

Citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, Bob handed me a little I guess it's an invoice from public financial management and for advisory services for general obligation note Series 206, I guess this was the TAN, I hope it was the TAN, but he sent in a bill for \$725,000 -- yeah, \$725,000 for advisory service. He didn't even say his hand was in the pot. I hope there is lot more paperwork involved than just this kind of an invoice because now you got to park for three-quarter of a million dollars because somebody advised somebody, I would want to see a lot more paperwork on the whole deal and you should have. Anybody should have known that was going to happen.

I know you were talking about the water bill, I, too, have my water bill. I'm not going to go into it all, I'm just going to a certain section of it. It has a bill from 1-1-17 to 1-9-17, approximately eight days, nine days if you want to say it that way, for a total -- that was the water, extra water service, \$6.63 and then for the water service I had to pay \$31.50 to get rid

of that water for the \$6.63 water. Does that make sense that I paid four times as much to get rid of that little water? As it was, they never lowered the standard fee. Wast water service charge.

Now, the first thing you should do is find out can that charge be lowered? I was told they were going to spread the costs over all of the systems, but yet this is the same thing the sewer service charged so are we going to still pay the same as for the sewer service as the standard charge or are we going to spread it?

MR. WECHSLER: The spreading was the sale, it wasn't the sewer fee.

MR. SBARAGLIA: How could they have spread the cost of the sewer authority over all of the customers? That was done by the company itself.

MR. WECHSLER: I believe the logic is what they paid by the company that cost is going to be spread over all of their customers.

MR. SBARAGLIA: But obviously it's not. It's not now if they are still using

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the same standard fixed costs.

MR. WECHSLER: That's the minimal sewer fee per month, \$19.50 per month.

MR. SBARAGLIA: Right. Why?

MR. WECHSLER: That's the way it's set up. That's the sewer fee.

MR. SBARAGLIA: But why though? Did you ever request PUC to look into that to see if that's the actual cost? They had \$28 million from this kind of deal saved, and you know that. That means they are making a huge profit in this whole deal. This thing is supposed to be just add the cost of the system, not necessary to make a huge profit, but I know that's the reason why the electric company sold off the power plants. They are making more money on the transmission costs they were on the power plant.

That's your job. You are there protect the city whether you believe it or not. You should find out everything you can about every deal that is or will be or that shall be and don't come and say, well, we can't find out the information. You guys

came to service. That was the whole reason you were giving that right, to sit there a and subpoena the different people to come before you and get an explanation of everything it is or will be or shall be, not give an answer. We are paying \$5,000 a month for yous people, I'd like to get \$5,000 worth of work out of you. Attending a meeting doesn't mean a darn thing.

You talk -- that poor guy is complaining about the drainage, does that drainage pipe belong to the water company or to the city? Has anybody got an answer on that?

MR. WECHSLER: That was part of the meeting.

MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, there you go.

That should come up real easy to find out
where it's connected to. You should know
where it's connected to, but know you don't
meeting after meeting. It's called pass the
buck and you people are great at doing that.
Everything that comes before you either you
don't know, will no or shall no, but it
doesn't get answered and people have to sue.

1 That's why we have so many lawsuits. Thank 2 you. 3 MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. 4 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening, Marie 5 Schumacher. I was happy to see that the business administrator finally got around to 6 7 putting the 2017 budget online. And I am 8 definitely looking forward to the outcome or 9 learning the outcome of the meeting you had 10 on Monday regarding the distribution of the 11 Scranton Sewer Authority windfall that you 12 announced last week. Very anxious to hear 13 that in Fifth Order. 14 MR. WECHSLER: We said there is 15 going to be a meeting. There has been no 16 meeting yet. 17 MS. SCHUMACHER: You said last week 18 there is meeting scheduled for Monday. MR. WECHSLER: 19 No. 20 MS. SCHUMACHER: What is holding up 21 the rental registration escrow distribution? 22 Has anybody checked to see why the 23 litigation has not been concluded? 24 MR. EVANS: The lawsuit is ongoing 25 and it hasn't been settled yet.

I was

MS. SCHUMACHER: But it has. 1 in the courtroom when the rental 2 3 registration ordinance was done to their satisfaction, which must have been when you 4 passed it. The legal -- I think somebody 5 needs to ask our solicitor why it's not 6 7 settled yet? 8 MR. EVANS: I agree. We will ask 9 that. 10 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm surprised 11 people haven't been in here asking for their 12 money. Boy, you have quality of life 13 ordinances, and you want your money in 48 14 hours, but, boy, when it comes to refunding money that's been taken incorrectly then 15 16 just stand in line and wait. 17 MR. ROGAN: My understanding of that 18 is there is a back and forth going on 19 between the city and the --20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, okay, you can 21 tell me in Fifth Order, okay? 22 MR. ROGAN: Well, I'm answering you 23 There is back and forth going on right 24 now between the plaintiffs and the city over 25 who pays the legal fees. That's my belief.

MS. SCHUMACHER: When will the post-rental registration promise of a condemnation ordinance be forthcoming?

MR. EVANS: We are going start working on that soon. That's one of my projects.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Soon? By when?

MR. EVANS: Well, we have to get
everybody together so it's probably going to
be sometime in -- we'll probably start in
February or March to get that resolved. We
are working on a peddler's license right
now. That's been the holdup. We should be
done working on that starting next week.

MS. SCHUMACHER: The horses have disappeared from 307 and Seymour Avenue and 207 and Snook Street, but nothing appears -- no work appears to have happened, am I to believe that those horses were there needlessly for all of those many months? I don't think so, so now we have increased the danger, we haven't fixed the problem, but we have taken the horses away so people at least know that if you happen to go over your car is going to sink down.

1 MR. EVANS: Were they --MS. SCHUMACHER: Unbelievable. 2 3 MR. EVANS: Were they DPW horses or are they PennDOT? Where they are DPW horses 4 5 that were on there? MS. SCHUMACHER: They were DPW, they 6 were police department, fire. 7 8 MR. EVANS: All right. 9 Okay, and for MS. SCHUMACHER: 10 consistency sake, when are we going to do 11 something or have we done anything to 12 enforce the -- upon all of the Air BnB 13 vendors within the city the same thing we 14 did on the Reihners? And, if not, why not? I went on there today, still there is 15 16 somebody on in the center of East Mountain 17 charges \$115 a day. 18 MR. EVANS: That's a question for 19 license and inspections, I agree. MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, all of them 20 21 are, but how long has it been? Have they 22 checked? Have you guys checked? What do 23 you do? I mean, I can't believe --24 MR. EVANS: Check what? What's the 25 question?

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MS. SCHUMACHER: Pardon?

MR. EVANS: Check what?

MS. SCHUMACHER: Check to see whether they are -- whether our administration is enforcing the ordinance on everybody knowing how many there are in the city that they go after one person.

MR. EVANS: They told me they were checking them all, but I haven't seen results of that, but that's why I have been calling for an overhaul of the zoning code because that's --

MS. SCHUMACHER: But you could follow-up on those for starters. We have people, are they paying the mercantile tax. Who knows? You know, it's only money. I agree with everybody else, as I have been saying, we are following the Amoroso plan it had for Newark and we are going to be Newark, Jr., coming up before very long at all.

I noticed yesterday that the wonderful photo in the Times-Tribune about the mother and her daughter sledding in Moscow, where do we have sledding in the

city for the children or any kind of winter activities? We have got lakes that we own.

MR. WECHSLER: We need ice on the lake, number one. There is no recreation around the lake because there is no ice right now. There are none because there is a liability issues. I don't understand why a kid can't find a hill and just slide down it. That's what we used to do. I'm not sure if it's the City's responsibility to have a sliding hill.

MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I think our children deserve something. I'll be back with the rest next week, good Lord willing.

MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

MR. UNGVARSKY: City Council, I'm

Tom Ungvarsky. Today I called about my

sewer bill, and while I was on the phone

with the them I asked them if that included

the storm water and I was told no that that

would come on a separate billing. Several

months ago I accused this council of raising

taxes fees, and fines. This city council

with the sale of that Sewer Authority has

just imposed another fee on us and I think

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this fee will probably rival the garbage fee.

I think over the years this council has done a tremendous disservice to the people of the City of Scranton. You have imposed all kinds of fees, you have taxed everything you can and you expect us to sit here and take it. I don't think one of you deserves to be on city council any longer. I hope you resign.

MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council. Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxpayer. On the lawsuit that was reported this week, some of plaintiffs don't even work in town, they don't -- they only go to the University apparently. A few weeks ago I mentioned this article "White Nationalists Okayed as Tax Exempt Charity", and I'd like to remind everybody that 501-C3's, C4's, all you can do is ask that they pay. Once again, and not to put them in the same boat as these people, the University I was a little flabbergasted with that request for \$5 million for the South Side complex. They brag about what they do for the city and

everything, but excuse me I think we can use those grants somewhere else to much better avail. It's just ashame.

Hospital or something, all of us, they save your life maybe, maybe they won't, but all too often these so-called charities are up to politics, and even bad politics to their eyeballs and they get tax exempts and then they start applying for grants and everything else. I have been very disturbed that over certain contraceptive devices being called abortive issues falsely, I mean, they are up to their eyeballs in this politics. I just want to live as a modern person. I don't want to hurt anybody, I don't want to be any problem to anybody.

A little book, if you want my recommendation, Wayne, you guys need to invest in DINKS. Do you know what a DINK is? Dual income no kids couples.

MR. EVANS: DINK.

MR. DOBRZYN: Yeah. Yeah. Because we don't use the school system, you don't have it chase us usually with the police department, you don't have to do very much

for us and we pay taxes.

MR. EVANS: That's who is living downtown, by the way.

MR. DOBRZYN: And we have the money to do it so we are DINKS.

MR. EVANS: That's what you grow the downtown is to attract DINKS.

MR. DOBRZYN: But, at any rate, we really need to take that into consideration. We need to invest in DINKS. That's my recommendation. And last week there was an issue on prison closings, and I'd like see our prisons become a lot less crowded so maybe closing them is the idea and maybe not closing them and giving somebody some help along with their incarceration.

But, also, I'd like to mention,

Council, that our school system is in dire

straights and we really need to make sure

that kids are getting an education and they

are able to go to school and be fed before

school. A lot of them are poor and poor

parents and, by the way, the worse they do

in school you can predict how many prison

cells you are going to need later at \$165

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bucks a day or something.

Just quick, it's a local and national issue, all issues are interwoven as far as I see it, but I had here a thing from Geisinger I picked up with an examination and the old law, as I remembered a few years ago before Affordable Care Act or Obama Care, whatever you want to call it, was that you could earn \$22,500 a year and if you broke your arm, if you were slightly under that, you could get uncompensated medical care. Now, where did that money come from to replace that? It came from your policy, and your policy and her policy, and every year the hospital showed their losses, so it's something to consider if you think that -- if you're thinking about rushing into some other type of medical care we really need to take a look of what was wrong and get it straightened out because personally I'm tired of \$100 a month and my policy going to somebody else's care and then no recognition for it. Thank you and have a good night.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone

I have

else?

MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A. MOTIONS.

MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

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a couple of things here, it won't take too long. The first thing is just an update on

MR. PERRY: Yes, thank you.

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the information we sent over to the city

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engineer about the no parking in front of

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the Head Start on Madison Avenue. This is

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the response that we have gotten. This

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actually went from the city engineer

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Mr. Pocius to the police department.

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4 Number one. Remove the three

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there is three signs in front of the Wood

existing signs at this location. Currently

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there is three signs in front of the Head

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Start that state "15-minute parking" and

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that no longer is going to suffice for

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public safety reasons. Number two. Install

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"No Parking" symbols with arrows right

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20-feet back from crosswalk outside of

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Madison Avenue and Pine Street. Three.

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Install three "No Parking" restricted day

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signs, and this is going to be for Monday

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through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and that's,

again, to allow the children with special needs adequate time to get on the bus and to get off the bus without blocking traffic or making the bus back out of the Head Start center, which is unsafe in itself. Number four. The intent of this recommendation it to prohibit parking as outlined from the southerly curb line on Pine Street to the southerly property line of Head Start; and, number five approval ordinance of the city council may be required, which it will be and we are expecting February 9 and that's tentative to see this legislation in front of us to be looked at and start the proces of voting on it.

Number two, we had Chief Graziano at our public caucus today. He just wanted to go over some of the things with the cost assessment with the Serrenti building versus a pole-barn structure. Basically what this is going to do is it's going to be to house our equipment that we have that's currently in the Serrenti building. This has been going on for I believe over a year, and as of right now it seems like the cost

assessment side as explained by Chief Graziano falls within taking the asset of the Serrenti building from the government and applying a government grant of \$250,000 for the upkeep. Now, I will vote "yes" on this tonight to advance it, but I do want to check with our Business Administrator Mr. Bulzoni and just get a chance to run the numbers to see if they check out as far as the finances go on this, but as of his presentation it seemed to be as of right now the best case scenario of the two.

Also, I want to make a note on the efficiency network. I know in South Side Minooka area which I live most of the streets are all finished up. As of last week they had over 2000 fixtures are completed. I think they are brighter, I think they are actually outstanding, and correct me if I'm wrong, was it a 30-year life on the bulbs over the --

MR. WECHSLER: Yeah.

MR. PERRY: -- life, so I mean we are talking once this is done we are not going to have an outage of streetlights for 30

years and this is guaranteed.

I want to throw a big thank you out to Governor Wolf, the prison closings I guess you could say for lack of a better term they got a stay of execution for the NEPA area and we got those three kept open which is absolutely huge. The jobs that stays in our area it's just outstanding so I was very happy to see that. Unfortunately, it looks like the prison in Pittsburgh is the one that got the ax this time around possibly for an \$8 million a year saving is what was said, but NEPA got covered and I'm very happy about that.

And to end, sleigh riding, sleigh riding was brought up. Near and dear to my heart. Who doesn't love a sleigh ride. I know we went up to McDade Park often to sleigh ride. It's free, there is lots of hills there and McDade is on the other side of the city, but the good part of living in a city without hills is there is always a place to sleigh ride. I lived in South Aide, I have lived in Minooka, and there is hills everywhere so, you know, I never had

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an issue finding a hill to sleigh ride and I hope that there is not issues out there because it is a lot of fun. And that is all I have today.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Mr. Rogan?

Yes, a number of items. MR. ROGAN: First, it was reported in the newspaper and our fire department is now going to be equipped with Narcan, which is an antidote for anyone who overdoses either on prescription pain medicines or heroin. This is something our police department has been -- excuse me, our police department has had for I believe it was well over a year at this point. Council approved that ordinance, now our fire department will have it which is a great tool because of two-fold: One, the heroin epidemic in our area; and two, if a child or if a child happens to ingest prescription pain medication by accident this antidote will revers those effects. Same for senior citizens who may take an extra dose by accident, now our fire department will also

be equipped with this valuable tool.

And the reason why it's important for the fire department to have as well is they're often the first on the scene. For instance, when there is accident, when there is a number of other events throughout the city it's many times that our fire department are the first of the first responders, so I would like to thank our fire department. This is just another service that they will provide and we are truly lucky to have such a great fire department in our city.

Moving on to another issue, last week I mentioned at the council meeting that the DPW did have both the paper red bins and the blue recycling bins. Following the meeting, I put a post on Facebook and I had an amazing response from a number of people who were looking for bins and I had questions about the recycling program, and I'd like to thank Larry Quinn at the DPW who personally delivered some recycling bins to some residents who were unable to go down to DPW to collect them, so I'd like to give him

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a big shout out, and just from the response that I have received there is going to be number of new people recycling in the city which is great for our environment and great for our budget because it does save in dump fees.

There were a couple of questions that were brought up and there are two -and these are recurring items, one of them was I know we do not collect recyclables in the courts, and I know when the recycling routes were initially planned I believe it was the early 90's under Mayor Connors and different equipment was used to pick up the recycling at that time, so if we can I'd like to send a letter to DPW Director Gallagher and ask what the reason why recycling is not collected in the courts, whether it's a logistical reason or just pure manpower, but I do think especially in courts that do not have access to the main road we need to expand our recycling program.

Now, for roads that have, for instance, most of the neighborhoods

throughout the city, especially in my neighborhood in West Side you have -- you live on whatever, you know, Bromley Avenue and then in the back you have a court. In that type of scenario it makes more sense to have the recycling pick up only on one, but there are homes that are just in the courts that do not have access to a main street so I think those people should be allowed to benefit of recycling as well.

And, secondly, I know some of my colleagues have inquired on this, and this is a longstanding issue regarding the Scranton Housing Authority, I'd like to send a follow-up to the Housing Authority to ask them to once again look at instituting a recycling program within the Housing Authority. There are a large number of people that live in Housing Authority controlled properties and, again, they do not have the opportunity to recycle and many of them would like to recycle for environmental reasons.

Next, I'd like echo Mr. Perry's sentiments regarding the news that the two

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local prisons that were on the chopping block are not going to close. That's welcome news to number of the people that live in the area that work at those prisons, their family members work there, and again, it's a matter of public safety if a number of prisons were to close the inmates would have to go somewhere. So I would like to thank our state representatives, Marty Flynn, Kevin Haggerty, our state senator John Blake, and I'd especially like to thank, although he is not our state senator, John Yudichak, the state senator from Luzerne County who really took the lead on this issue, and I don't think I'm going out on a limb that he is probably the reason why these facilities remained open because of his hard work and his job convincing Governor Wolf.

Pension reforms were brought up by one of the speakers. The city council has been very active in a number of pension issues, obviously, the one on the forefront is investigating into the double pension issue, which is sill ongoing. At the same

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ordinances in other cities of different controls that can be put in place from a city council standpoint. Obviously, many of the larger issues do need to be initiated from the administration, but in an event such as what happened with these double pensions there could have been and should have been a control in place where the city council and the public knew exactly what was going on, whether it be a 30-day public comment period, which is common for some other legislation that takes place so it can't be rammed through in one night or in three weeks, that there is a period to take a breath if there is ever a buyout incentive of any sort in the future, but there is a number of other things that I'm looking at. I will continue to report on those as I look at them and work with my colleagues for input as well.

And, finally, since it was still brought up from the podium and apparently

Mr. Wechsler's comments and my comments have still not been heard by some residents, your

time, I have been looking into a number of

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Sewer Authority bill did not go up. It was a billing error. I know when you open that bill, and I received it, an erroneous bill as well when you open it it's a sticker shock and you get nervous and, unfortunately, the Pennsylvania Water Company made a very larger error on this bill, but I would like to state once again that the bill that you received that number on your bill if you paid your Sewer Authority bill last month that is not accurate. What they did is they were charging -- they on your bill it's listed for what you previously owed and paid because of the lag in the computer systems. Now, if you didn't pay your bill last month that amount of the bill is what you owe, but for the majority of our residents in the city and in Dunmore, who are part of the system as well, if you paid your bill last month that is not going to be part of your current bill.

If you do have any questions, call
Pennsylvania American Water Company. I have
talked to a number of residents who did call

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them and they were the issue was explained to them very clearly, they were told what their actual dollar amount that they owe is. I know there was some back on forth on the usage fee, previously with the Scranton Sewer Authority the usage fee you received your bill every two months so you had a usage fee and then you had your consumption This was instituted I believe about 10 to 15 years ago. Prior to that, it was a straight consumption fee where it was based strictly on the amount of water that you It was changed over to a hybrid fee to try and be more fair regarding system improvements so the person who uses more water is still going to pay more money, which it should be, but at the same time a property that may be sitting vacant or isn't currently using a ton of water they need to pay something for the cost of maintaining the entire system. That's why that was done again, it was probably about 10 to 15 years ago when that was instituted. That flat fee that everyone pays was cut in half because it's now paid 12 times a year instead of six

times a year, so your actual out-of-pocket is exactly the same, it's just broken out over 12 payments instead of six payments. Your usage cost is the same exact rate as it's always been, the only difference now that will vary from month to month unless somehow you use the exact of water every month, but from one month to another that part of your bill will vary, and it always has varied based upon the amount of water that use.

I hope that clears up some of the confusion and I would like to thank Jim Lockwood of the Scranton Times for very quickly getting an article our on this issue. I know last night into today myself and I know many of my colleagues have been inundated with calls, messages on social media about this and after some investigation luckily we are able to determine that these bills, the majority of them, were issued in error. I know there are a lot of people out there that still don't this news. Many can be watching, I'm hoping they are listening now, but for the

person that's not using the internet they are not going to find out until -- unless they call the water company until they read tomorrow's paper so it's very important that that information does get out there and if you have in family, friends or neighbors that are concerned about this and they are watching please let them know, you know, that these bills were issued in error.

I do think that we should do something as far as getting in touch with the water goes. The next bill there needs to be an explanations on the bills to explain to the taxpayers and the residents as to what happened and why and I believe there should be an apology as well from the company, but there needs to be an explanation so people know what happened and what their actual billing process is.

I know a flier was sent out I
believe it was maybe a month or so ago from
the water company explaining the new
combined billing, which I thought was very
informative, but now after this large mix up
I think the water company needs to do a

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little bit more to help the public on how their bill actually is put together.

Finally, on the Serrenity building, Chief Graziano came into our caucus tonight and provided a lot of information about how this property was going to be used. a number of us, myself included, are looking to take a tour of that building, I believe a couple of colleagues already did, but the thought is it's currently being used for storage, as Mr. Perry mentioned, and training. Chief Graziano relayed to us that he firmly believes using this facility will make it easier for him to run the department and it will be more efficient compared to building a new structure to store some equipment that must be kept in a heated environment, so I am looking forward to hearing from Mr. Bulzoni as to his assessment on the financial impact, but from talking to the chief, if Chief Graziano believes this is the most efficient way to run the department and to achieve the results, the great results that he has been achieving, I would be fully in support of

this project.

I guess that is all. I would have some comments on some other agenda items, but I will wait until them come up. Thank you.

MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Evans?

MR. EVANS: Thank you. Last week a speaker asked the question about the refuse fees going into a separate account. I did what I always do, I pointed the question to the administration where they are responsible for answering those types of questions, and the answer was that the fees are, indeed, deposited into a separate special city account. Deposits go into a refuse account, to an all central account for all refuse receipts separately. Asked and answered.

Number two, I got an e-mail again from Neighbor Works about our Scranton Homeowners Assistance Program that was developed here in the Scranton council. I just want to read part of it from Jessie Errgot, president and CEO. "I wanted to add, that we have received so much positive

feedback on the program from the recipients and staff that we applied for two large major revitalization grants that aim to help expand this program to serve more Scranton homeowners. It really is a great model to both encourage homeownership and improve the physical appearance of the neighborhoods.

So that's going very, very well.

On the audit front, our expectation is that we will have the audit completed by June 30. Not bad.

Marie asked about Air BnB's. I will check to find out if there is enforcement going on for all of the Air BnB's in the city. The problem is that it is not clearly defined in the zoning code. That's why last week I asked for a comprehensive study and a new writing of the new zoning code. It's very, very important to look at those things that have not been addressed that came on over the last 24 years since the last zoning code to be addressed, and Air BnB is certainly one of those item.

On the SSA transaction, I think somebody asked week did we receive the

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money. Yes, we have received approximately \$69.9 million and they are currently in two separate accounts. I won't comment on the actual appointment of Attorney Shrive as the executive director/attorney of the Scranton Sewer Authority, I'm going to leave that up for others to dissect, but I will that I have expectations for the new director to provide us information on a timely manner. In fact, I will be requesting that we receive monthly status reports on how the wind down on the Sewer Authority is progressing. Also, I would expect and demand that we have had a monthly accounting of every dime that is spent relative to the wind down. There is approximately \$5 million set aside for that process and every dollar that is not spent comes back to the city, which is vitally important to all of our taxpayers. The \$5 million should not be viewed in anyway as a blank check to spend during the closure period.

Also, I would expect the new director to be our point man on giving city council a comprehensive accounting of the

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\$12 million in cash that was apparently spent on ongoing mandates of the Sewer Authority during the time frame of the acceptance of the offer to buy and the actual closing, and I would join my colleague Councilman Gaughan in looking into our subpoena power if any of that information is not forthcoming.

One more important point on the sewer transaction and the vote that was taken in December on the Sewer Authority legislation, our vote was based on the information provided to us by the administration, that the legislation provided the legal means to begin the process of dissolving the Sewer Authority. It was also a means to allow for the transfer of the proceeds from the Sewer Authority to the City of Scranton. not legislation that gave city council's blessing on the deal or authorize the deal, that was the sole purview of the Sewer Authority and the deal was going to be closed with or without legislation being The only difference would have been passed.

if the legislation did not pass the money from the sale would have remained with the authority and would not have been transferred to the city. I don't think anyone would have appreciated that outcome.

And, finally, on the appointment of Jessica Boyles as the city solicitor, I have been working with Jessica at our weekly meetings with PEL for as long as she has been with city and I'm extremely confident with Jessica's abilities and she will be an excellent city solicitor, so congratulations, Jessica, and good luck in your new position. That's all I have for now.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, Mr. Evans.

Mr. Gaughan?

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you.

First, we received a petition from residents on Silex Street for a "No Parking" sign so we are going to submit that the city engineer to take a look at. I received an update that the city is developing procedures for the collection of the leaf waste using -- for the collection of leaf

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waste using brown bags, so the city is looking into possibly purchasing brown leaf and yard waste bags and my only suggestion would be whatever they do it needs to be run better than it was this year and people need to know exactly when they are picking it up and know what the schedule is because that was a point of contention as I go through the neighborhoods.

A couple of concerns at the Hill Neighborhood association meeting that I attended last night. First of all, and we have been inundated with phone calls from people who are upset who are Comcast. rates are going up, there is no Yankee channel, you know, they moved the service center to Dickson City, even though we are their largest customer and, you know, that's one of the reasons that I voted against that Comcast deal. I really think that they are holding people hostage. I mean, we have elderly people who look at their bill, don't understand why it's going up, and they are not getting what they pay for in my opinion so, you know, continue to call them and make complaints.

The other thing that came up at the neighborhood meeting was the lack of street signs in the Hill Section. I would like to send a letter to the DPW asking them if they could make a concerted effort in the Hill Section and really all throughout the city to replace and put up street signs. One street that was mentioned at the neighborhood meeting was Clay Avenue. Also, there is a lack of one-way signs and stop signs in the Hill Section so if we can also include that in the letter.

There is a large pothole in the 600 block of Mahon Court and a large pothole in the 700 block of Prescott Avenue. I have received a number of the complaints, as I do almost daily, on the condition of Colliery Avenue in Minooka. I realize that the utility company filled the trenches, but the road is still in a disgraceful condition and it won't be paved until this spring, which to me is unbelievable given that we are going to be in the middle of winter. So, again, the Hill Section neighborhood meeting

the issue of the pave cuts come up and I'm still not satisfied with the way that that program is being run.

I did read in the nice paper about the Young property on Wyoming Avenue. An update, the hole gets bigger and, again, it's a total shame. By the city putting that plywood over the hole they are basically admitting they are responsible for it, and in my opinion if this hole was in anybody else's backyard that had political connections or knew somebody in city hall it would have been filled last year, so the mayor should be ashamed that this situation was allowed to get to this point.

Just an update on the street
lighting project. Again, when I was at the
neighborhood meeting a lot of discussion
about the new streetlights as they are
making their way through the Hill Section
and people are viewing them, I thin, very
favorably. I have heard some complaints
that the street lights in some areas are
sporadic, so you have a light here and you
don't have a light for a block or two. The

city with this company Ten is completing an assessment neighborhood by neighborhood to determine if additional lighting is needed in these neighborhoods, and as I said, one of the problems is that the location of the lights are sporadic so they company has been through East Mountain and they are now in the Hill Section retrofitting the lights.

I have two motions that I would like to make regarding the Scranton sewer
Authority. First one is I would like to make a motion that City Council submit our Sewer Authority related questions and a Right-to-Know request to the executive director of the Sewer Authority.

MR. EVANS: I'll second it. I'll second that for discussion.

MR. WECHSLER: On the question.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, on the question, the reason that I'm making this motion, you know, we requested information from the Sewer Authority and we haven't gotten it yet, it's been a few weeks. Now, we have a change in who the executive director is and that's fine. Maybe we will get the

still think that we should cover ourselves because I think this is becoming a stall tactic and, you know, if someone told me don't hold my breath and if I do hold my breath I will be dead at this point. This is important information that this council needs to see. We were left in the dark on this deal and I just think to cover ourselves we should submit a Right-to-Know request and that's why I'm making the motion.

information February 2 or whatever, but I

MR. WECHSLER: On the question, I don't believe we need to cover ourselves right now. Mr. Shrive took over the job on Monday. There is no reason to believe as of Thursday night at this time that he won't answer our questions. Right-to-Know is a lengthy process that can be denied within the city and it has to go to the State of Pennsylvania, so personally I would rather try to work with Mr. Shrive right now and give him a week and so and we always have the Freedom of Information Act as an option.

MR. EVANS: I think right now,

Councilman Wechsler, is the letter request for information by next Thursday?

MR. WECHSLER: Yes. We resent the letter to him, Mrs. Reed, I think we found out Monday that Mr. Shrive was going to become the attorney and we got it to him, may have been the first letter that he received about 3:30 on Monday.

MR. EVANS: I'll tend to go along with the idea of waiting until next Thursday, but I agree with Councilman Gaughan if we don't get a quick response after that latest delay we are going to have go forward with either a Right-to-Know or if they are stalling on that information even using or subpoena power if that's appropriate.

MR. WECHSLER: Just a question to Solicitor Minora, if we do file a Right-to-Know request does that relieve the director from not having to answer us at all until the FOI is answered?

MR. MINORA: Well, I don't know that it relieves him of the responsibility to answer, but if give him a lot more time to

answer and a lot more appeals to --

MR. WECHSLER: So once we file that he can say -- we can be waiting for the decision to be made.

MR. MINORA: It could possibly be counterproductive.

MR. WECHSLER: That's what I would rather wait a little while at least before we issue a Freedom of Information Act request.

MR. EVANS: If I may though, I would like to not -- maybe in the form of the motion, but I'm just talking about this right now, but add I would like see monthly reports on any expenditures and receivables at the Sewer Authority.

MR. WECHSLER: Yeah. I would agree with Councilman Evans and Councilman Gaughan as we go through our motions I was going to get together and work on that request because I don't think that's very unreasonable and there is going to be daily product, there should be daily product coming out of the administrator's office. I believe there is going to be a secretary in

the office as well, so I think there should be -- that information should be readily available.

There is still is the Sewer

Authority board that Director Shrive will

have to report to, so I would believe that

they would also be interested in the same

information that we are going to request, so

I think that's a good idea actually.

MR. PERRY: Yeah, on the question, would that benefit us to send a second letter to Mr. Shrive just kind of explaining our intentions that he has a week, you know, to get his answer and get us some information, but it is this council's intent to get this information and if we have to do a Freedom of Information Act then that's what we will do.

MR. WECHSLER: Yeah --

MR. PERRY: I don't want it to sound threatening, but I just want Mr. Shrive to know that the council -- that there is something coming from him to us one way or the other.

MR. WECHSLER: We already did

establish the second is the deadline for him.

MR PERRY: Okay.

MR. WECHSLER: Once again, I'm reluctant to put the specter of Freedom of Information Act in there because he may --

MR. PERRY: And, again, I don't want it to sound threatening, but I just want him just to realize that this is something that we need and we are willing to pursue another avenue if it's not voluntarily given to us on the deadline.

MR. WECHSLER: I would like to have actually two separate issues, the questions that we're asking on the sale and also the questions on the clean up. I think it's kind of -- it's just as important, but separate and I'd like to send him some type of mechanism for us to get that report.

MR. ROGAN: I would just add, I think we all want to see the information, but Attorney Shrive has been in this job for four days. I don't think he would be expected to send a lengthy reply, it was a very lengthy request. I think there needs

to be a reasonable amount of time given to reply and a thorough reply, so at this point in time I don't think that would be the best course of action. And again, a little off the topic, but the idea of a work session to discuss this is something I would fully support. I'm not sure how many colleagues feel about that, that's something maybe we can discuss in caucus next week.

MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else? There has been a motion made and seconded. On the question? We did the question. All those in favor indicate by saying aye.

MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

MR. WECHSLER: Opposed?

MR. PERRY: No.

MR. EVANS: No.

MR. ROGAN: No.

MR. WECHSLER: The nos have it and the motion does not pass.

MR. GAUGHAN: And I'd like to make a second motion that city council request weekly status reports or updates regarding pending issues, all pending issues related to the Scranton Sewer Authority.

MR. ROGAN: Second.

MR. WECHSLER: On the question, I think --

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.

MR. WECHSLER: Just before we --

MR. GAUGHAN: Sure.

MR. WECHSLER: We discussed the framework a little bit, so if we could narrow it down to something specific more as Mr. Evans mentioned I think we can agree on that.

MR. GAUGHAN: Well, sure on the question, any pending issue related to the Scranton Sewer Authority which is obviously we voted to dissolve the Authority so there is still a board, there is an executive director and solicitor so there is all of these issues. Any pending issues that's holding up the dissolution of the Authority, the easements, lawsuits, I would like a weekly or monthly status report on that because I think we need to monitor, as Mr. Evans pointed out.

MR. WECHSLER: I agree with that. I think the Sewer Authority operates more on a

monthly basis, so I believe the director will be reporting to the board on a monthly basis. I'm not sure weekly would be practical, but monthly I think is.

MR. EVANS: Well, to expand on it, besides what Councilman Gaughan is saying if want to talk about before is to really look at the dollars and cents receivables and the expenditures, some sort of balance sheet that we can could get every single one should be bear minimum as they spend down and wind down the Sewer Authority and the \$5 million that's been allocated.

MR. ROGAN: I would agree and was the motion for weekly or monthly?

MR. GAUGHAN: Weekly.

MR. ROGAN: I think as -- and I support the idea completely that's why I seconded the motion, I think monthly might be a better use of the request, but I think it should come to us with reports with the same way all of our Third Order business does. At the beginning of the meeting, for instance, we receive the Controller's report this month, the Tax Assessor's report and

1 the Planning Commission report. I think it should be included in those as well. 2 3 MR. EVANS: Right, but it shouldn't be just the minutes of the Sewer Authority 4 5 meeting if should be --MR. ROGAN: No, this isn't a 6 condition --7 8 MR. EVANS: -- a comprehensive 9 accounting. 10 MR. ROGAN: I guess weekly I --11 because the motion is weekly I would be 12 against that, but if it was monthly I would 13 support it, and just as a point of 14 clarification I believe the council rules do state these items should be produced in 15 16 advance, and I know -- you know, and I still 17 seconded it because I support it, but in the 18 future I think if we could discuss these in 19 caucus --MR. GAUGHAN: Well, we didn't have a 20 21 chance because Chief Graziano was in there. 22 MR. ROGAN: Right, but in most 23 situations if we discussed this in caucus I 24 think we could come up with an agreement 25 that we could all support.

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1	MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
2	introduction signify by saying aye.
3	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
4	MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?
5	MR. ROGAN: No.
6	MR. PERRY: No.
7	MR. EVANS: Well, you basically had
8	I think the hang up was the
9	MR. PERRY: The time frame.
10	MR. WECHSLER: I think we discussed
11	monthly.
12	MR. ROGAN: No, the vote was weekly.
13	MR. GAUGHAN: I'd like to make a
14	motion that we request monthly status
15	reports or updates that are sent to city
16	council regarding the pending issues related
17	to the dissolution of the Scranton Sewer
18	Authority.
19	MR. ROGAN: Second
20	MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor
21	signify by saying aye.
22	MR. PERRY: Aye.
23	MR. EVANS: Aye.
24	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
25	MR. ROGAN: Aye.
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MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The ayes have it and so moved.

MR. GAUGHAN: Thank you. In staying on the topic of the Scranton Sewer
Authority, I am concerned by the recent news that our city solicitor has resigned to take the position as the executive director/solicitor of the Scranton Sewer Authority at a salary of \$130,000 a year. First, I have several questions that I would like answered. Number one, where is the money coming from that will be paying Mr. Shrive's salary?

Number two, was the salary inclusive of health and medical benefits.

Number three, what are the exact specific responsibilities and duties of this position? I'd like to see a contract or an agreement, if there is one, between the board and the Mr. Shrive.

Number four, is there a conflict or an ethical concern in having an executive director act as the solicitor at the same time? You know, I'll give you an example.

If the executive director makes a

recommendation to the board, and then the board in turn wants a legal opinion, how does the executive director -- how does that work? I don't understand that. So is that an ethical issue or is there a conflict there? How can you have a person that makes a recommendation to the board give a legal opinion on that recommendation, also.

Also, is there a conflict or an ethical issue in the fact that Mr. Shrive was involved in the Scranton Sewer Authority deal working on behalf of the city and then gets hired by the Authority? So I would like to know exactly what role he played in negotiations.

Why isn't the Sewer Authority paying the city rent for the office space on the first floor of city hall which is directly across the hall from the mayor's office?

I'd like to know was that space or was that office space open or was there an office there with employees in it and was that moved around to accommodate this arrangement? Will there be any money spent on renovating the office or ordering new

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equipment? Is city equipment or furniture currently being used in this office as it currently stands? And will there be any additional hires to work in that office that are not currently employed?

Let me say that I respect Attorney Shrive and his abilities as an attorney, and I'm certainly not questioning Attorney I'm questioning the action not the person, but quite frankly, this whole thing stinks to me and it stinks to many other taxpayers that I have talked to. arrangement is similar, in my opinion, to the fox guarding the henhouse. Mayor Courtright since he has taken office has made it a point to take care of his friends, and this is another great example, another political favor to add to the list. How can the mayor or anybody defend paying someone \$130,000 to be an executive director and solicitor for an Authority that that no employees?

The mayor has continually given key employees raises over the last three years and this recent move is a blatant cash grab

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paid for by the ratepayers of this city.

How convenient that the mayor has no problem providing space for Mr. Shrive, right across the hall from his office, rent free. The ratepayers are essentially, in my opinion, paying \$130,000 for another advisor for Mayor Courtright during an election year.

Once again, Mayor Courtright is flagrantly wasting the ratepayers' money and promoting a devastating lack of the transparency, and that's I have for this week. Thank you.

MR. WECHSLER: Thank you, In regards to Attorney Mr. Gaughan. Shrive's appointment to the director of Scranton Sewer Authority, one thing to remember is we have Jerry Cross, Pennsylvania Economy League, has worked with Mr. Shrive on several occasions and he actually felt that this would be a good transition for getting this deal complete. Attorney Shrive was active in the negotiations for the Sewer Authority so he is familiar with the issues that are remaining so he does bring some expertise to that. We just spent ten minutes going over

all different questions that we are going to asking of this director so, obviously, there is some type of job for him to do and he is familiar with the issues, so that is the function that he is going to be performing.

We were informed that there is going to be a secretary in the office, which will also be paid by Sewer Authority, and in terms of whether Mr. Shrive is in this office free or over on Adams Avenue where they are paying the lease, personally I would rather have Mr. Shrive here in city hall. It gives Mrs. Reed acces to him because he is only downstairs, and I think this is something that we have to work our way through and I do believe Mr. Shrive brings some expertise to this position.

And just getting back to Mr. Evans' comment regarding the termination of the Sewer Authority, recently there been a lot of comments that city council did not do it's due diligence in terms of this deal, a lot of comments that the deal is a bad deal, what would have been a bad deal is if we did take that vote and did not terminate the

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Sewer Authority, the money would have remained with the Sewer Authority. The city would not have received any benefit from the sale.

As we have been taking about probably since last August, we have been talking about how little bit of a role city council has played in the transaction, but the role that city council is going to play is going to be the largest part of the transaction. Beginning in a few weeks or maybe two weeks from now or so, this council will decide where that money is spent. everyone should just stop and think about The majority of this council will that. decide where that money is going to be Mayor Courtright, Business spent. Administrator Bulzoni, all of the advisors and all of the consultants can make recommendations to this council, but it will be a majority of this council who decides where the money is spent.

It a huge responsibility for us to do. The money is already in hand. We are only get to get one opportunity to get this

right. There are several different scenarios that have been proposed. We have been approached by a few people that have several unique ideas on what to do with the money and how to protect citizens, and we hear when you say this is your money, we know that it is, and this is our opportunity to make sure that this once in a lifetime sale of asset, which we didn't -- no one wanted to do, will result in a true improvement of the city.

This evening we heard what a terrible job council is doing, been doing, I'm sorry to say to these naysayers the financial community disagrees with you. Right now out in the financial community the City of Scranton is getting glowing reviews. The amount of money that it costs for us to borrow on the TAN from where we were three years ago was tremendously lower. The amount of investment that we are seeing in the city is up, and everyone has their opinion and we are here, we are paid \$5,000 to sit and listen to it. I disagree that we only come to meetings. I know Mr. Perry,

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Mr. Rogan, Mr. Gaughan and Mr. Evans every day we are doing something so I disagree with the fact that you don't believe that we are doing anything.

Yesterday afternoon the people of the Oakmont Neighborhood Association reported several break ins. Fortunately, I was able to contact Chief Graziano and some of the neighbors and we are going to have meeting on Monday night in the Oakmont Neighborhood Association to talk about these issues. That's something that I was doing last night at 8:30, 9:00 at night. the job I signed up to do, so even though you don't see us all of the time, you only see us on Thursday nights here, every one of my colleagues is working every day to serve the people, and I'm sorry that a lot of people disagree that we are not doing a good job, I disagree with them. I think we are doing a wonderful job. I think we are doing are very good job in terms of getting our financial problems under control at a minimum, and I'd like to congratulate actually my colleagues for the work that

they do.

Mr. Gaughan talked about the Comcast, it's my understanding that the YES network will be back around April 1, so if you are a Yankee hater you can sit down every night and hate on the Yankees.

Mr. Rogan mentioned the new addition to the fire department, the opioid problem Many, many of our in our area is terrible. crime problems come from heroin addiction. Many of our citizens are exposed to heroin and this becoming a real threat to our community, and hopefully this new addition we will be able to save some lives.

And just to touch a little more on the water bill, I'm not sure if everyone read their bill, I got mine yesterday, bottom line was I think \$197 that I owed, I owe them -- tomorrow I owe them \$75, so if you flip the bill over the amount that you owe them, your true bill is on the back. The front of the bill said \$199, the back of my bill said \$122 so flip your bill over and the proper amount should be on the back. And that's all I have.

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1	MR. GAUGHAN: I have one additional
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3	MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan, the
4	comment section is when you make your
5	comments and your comments have been made.
6	MR. GAUGHAN: Yeah, and I have one
7	additional comment. You have somewhere to
8	be?
9	MR. WECHSLER: If you could, if you
10	could, I'd like you to make all your
11	comments at once so we can keep the flow of
12	the meeting.
13	MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I'm not perfect,
14	Mr. Wechsler, I forget to mention, I wanted
15	to make a point of clarification.
16	MR. WECHSLER: It happens quite
17	often.
18	MR. GAUGHAN: That's why we have
19	meetings.
20	MR. WECHSLER: It happens quite
21	often.
22	MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I don't think
23	Solicitor Minora, am I doing anything out of
24	turn here by saying I have an additional
25	point I'd like to make?

MR. WECHSLER: I'm not saying you're doing anything wrong, I'm just asking you to try and get everything together --

MR. GAUGHAN: Well, no, let's hear from the solicitor. Am I doing something out of turn here by saying, "Excuse me, Mr. President, I have to additional point I'd like to make before we go to Fifth Order" -- or Fifth, Sixth or Seventh. Would you please let us know, because if I am out of order --

MR. WECHSLER: I'm not saying you are out of order.

MR. GAUGHAN: Well, you are the one that brought it up. Go ahead.

MR. MINORA: The president runs the meeting. He has the -- president of council runs the meeting and has the ability to run it as he sees fit according to the Rules of Council and I don't how else to answer it beyond that. You know, you are asking for a courtesy, and I think the president is asking that we try and keep a protocol going, I don't see anything wrong with either position.

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MR. GAUGHAN: Well, let me rephrase it then, Mr. Wechsler, would you mind if I made an additional comment? It won't take up too much of your time?

MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Gaughan, I don't know what your comments are about my time,
I'm here as long as the meeting goes, I have no where to go.

MR. GAUGHAN: Well, then can I make my comments so we can move on? I was going to make one additional point, I don't see what the big deal is, and that was to say that -- and Mr. Wechsler jogged my memory, and I want to make a point of clarification. There is no question that Attorney Shrive is familiar with the issues, there is no doubt about that. There is no question about Mr. Shrive's capabilities, this isn't even about Mr. Shrive, this isn't anything personal, this is about the appearance of this whole deal, of this whole thing, this whole setup. That's what I'm questioning and I do have questions, and they may not always be popular, and I take heat for them, but I'm not doing my job. That's why you

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put me here. So excuse me if I have an additional point of clarification that I would like to make, I thought that's why we were elected, and that's why we had an opportunity to speak. Thank you.

MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT THE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE PENNSYLVANIA GAMING LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00 AWARDED THROUGH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ("DCED") AND TO EXECUTE THE LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT CONTRACT AND DISBURSE THE FUNDS FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE SERRENTI MEMORIAL ARMY RESERVE CENTER, A/K/A/ CSM SAMUEL P. SERRENTI U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER (USARC) LOCATED AT 1801 PINE STREET, INTO AN EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER TO BE USED BY THE SCRANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FOR STORAGE OF LARGE/EXPENSIVE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT THAT CANNOT BE SAFELY STORED IN ANY OTHER FACILITY CURRENTLY OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE CITY.

MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into its proper committee.

MR. ROGAN: So moved.

MR. EVANS: Second.

MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question, this is the acceptance of a grant that we already were awarded. This is going to go towards the renovations of the Serrenti building that's going to be coming up in 5-C as well. We spoke about this, this is just simply going to be put towards the replacement and repair of roofing and some of the other major needs that that structure has.

MR. EVANS: On the question, I will be voting in the affirmative tonight on 5-B and 5-C just to move it along. I plan of doing a site visit to the Serrenti Center some time next week as I move towards deliberation and final vote.

MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, first of all, I would like to thank Chief Graziano for coming into our caucus. There is no

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question in my mind that he is one of the most qualified and one of the best chiefs of police that we have in the state and in the country. I voted against this the last time that it came up a few months ago and I can totally understand the intent and why they want to do this, but I really do not believe at this point as a distressed city with the budgetary problems that we have that we should be acquiring a major piece of real estate at this point. We struggle to maintain what we have now and, again, I do understand from listening to Chief Graziano the intent behind it, I think it's commendable and admirable, but we are going to be adding costs to our budget. Heating, air conditioning, regular maintenance that I don't believe at this point we can afford record or sustain over the long run, and at this point we are not even sure what those costs are going to be as it relates to our So if this turns into a actual office for the police department and, again, this is a pretty large building, we don't know what the effect is going to be on our

budget, so I don't see the immediate need for it and I am concerned about the cost that we may incur over the long run and that it will eventually end up being a money pit for the city. Thank you.

MR. PERRY: Well, just to follow up on that, I believe the immediate need that Chief Graziano said was the grant will run out and we'll loss that grant and we will still need a place where we are going to have to house our expensive equipment and then we will be without that \$250,000 grant to do it.

MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, I did make a visit there last evening. The equipment that is in there is very impressive. There is millions of dollars of equipment that are stored in that building right now. One of the concerns we had we looked at perhaps other locations to build the storage center or even another use for that location where the Serrenti Center is. We explored the property behind Scranton Police headquarters. There is it some owning right back there is some problems in terms of

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developing that site because of some environmental conditions and some extreme costs.

One of the other things we looked at was perhaps was tearing down the Serrenti Center and making that some type of residential neighborhood. The BRAC Commission from the Army prohibits those type of uses for that type of facility. As I mentioned, the equipment that I saw last evening there is very modern, it's very expensive. It would be fool hearted to leave it exposed to the elements. Even though there may be increased costs to protect it, we would not be doing our jobs if we weren't protecting that equipment. It's very important. A lot of it is used during life saving events and emergency events and to find out that it would not operational because it was left out in the cold would be irresponsible.

MR. ROGAN: I touched on this a little bit under motions, I'll just reiterate my position and I will say I am looking forward to a site visit as well. I

will be trying to join Councilman Evans when we hear back on regarding a site visit, but there is -- for me there is three issues. The first one, which is talked about a little bit is the cost, Chief Graziano did explain to us in our caucus tonight that if we do the move forward using this group the city would have to build a building to store this equipment, and the cost of building a new facility far outweighs the cost of rehabbing an old facility.

Additionally, this facility is not only going to be used to store equipment, which is the primary use now, it's going to be used for training and it's currently being used for training for our police officers and our firefighters.

I have tremendous respect for Chief Graziano and I think the work that he does and the men and women of our police department has what kept Scranton afloat for the last decade. When we had tough financial times one that was always strong in Scranton compared to our neighbors, especially Wilkes-Barre and Hazelton is our

public safety. I worked in Wilkes-Barre and Hazelton, you don't want to live there. Scranton is a very nice neighborhood, has very nice neighborhoods and we are definitely on the rebound, so if our police chief believes going this route is the best for him to operate his department and keep the people of Scranton safe I'm fully in support of the project.

MR. EVANS: One more thing on the question, I totally understand where Councilman Gaughan is coming from, I think my biggest problem is the recurring costs down the road, so I think we are going to get another piece of legislation where we actually have to accept the purchase of this as some time -- or not the purchase but accept if from the government, the federal government.

MR. PERRY: Yeah, that's 5-C.

MR. EVANS: No, that's actually I think the lease. Is that temporary?

MR. WECHSLER: Yes, so this is -"C" is so we can keep the equipment in
there.

MR. EVANS: Right, and then eventually we will get another piece of legislation I think that will accept the property from the federal government.

MR. ROGAN: That's correct, and the BRAC Commission works very slowly. It takes many, many years for the federal government to go through the BRAC Commission and decommission a property and, you know, in this case basically donating it to the city.

MR. EVANS: Well, my thought would be is that at that point in time we may be able to make something, an amendment, that creates a condition that -- is it 15 on Ash Street.

MR. WECHSLER: Yes.

MR. EVANS: That it be sold and it that be the condition, and then when it is sold the money be put in a special account for the utilities and maintenance at the Serrenity Center on an ongoing basis, so we at least know that for the next five or ten years those recurring costs will be taken care of without dipping into the general fund. But, I mean, that's for discussion

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1	down the road, but that was just a thought
2	that maybe something we can do.
3	MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
4	introduction signify by saying aye.
5	MR. PERRY: Aye.
6	MR. ROGAN: Aye.
7	MR. EVANS: Aye.
8	MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?
9	MR. GAUGHAN: No.
10	MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and
11	so moved.
12	MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
13	RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
14	APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
15	ENTER INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
16	LICENSE NO. DACA31-3-17-185 GRANTING THE
17	CITY OF SCRANTON USE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
18	PREMISES LOCATED AT THE FORMER CSM SAMUEL P.
19	SERRENTI U.S. ARMY RESERVE CENTER (USARC),
20	1801 PINE STREET, SCRANTON, PA 18510.
21	MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
22	entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
23	introduced into its proper committee.
24	MR. ROGAN: So moved.
25	MR. EVANS: Second.

MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All those in favor of introduction signify by saying aye.

MR. PERRY: Aye.

MR. ROGAN: Aye.

MR. EVANS: Aye.

MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed?

MR. GAUGHAN: No.

MR. WECHSLER: The ayes have it and so moved.

MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY
OF SCRANTON TO SIGN AND SUBMIT THE
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
("PENNDOT") APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL
APPROVAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE SOLAR
POWERED TWO SIDED RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING
BEACON SYSTEM, NEW CROSSWALK AND SIGNING.
THE LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY
(LHVA) PLANS TO HAVE THESE INSTALLED AS PART
OF THEIR SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT ELM
STREET AND LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL
INTERSECTION.

MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll

entertain a motion that Item 5-D be 1 2 introduced into its proper committee. 3 MR. ROGAN: So moved. MR. EVANS: Second. 4 5 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? MR. ROGAN: Yes. I discussed this 6 7 with Tom Preambo from OECD today. He did 8 relay to me that this is being funded 9 through OECD with HUD funds. They do have 10 an agreement to provide construction, administration and funding for the total 11 12 project assisted by their engineer firm. 13 There is a separate contract with ESC 14 Designs for the engineering component and our engineer John Pocius is providing the 15 16 City's technical review and oversight for 17 PennDOT's requirement. It's a great 18 opportunity to improve our overall 19 infrastructure and provide much needed 20 safety at this section of the trail. 21 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of 22 introduction signify by saying aye. 23 MR. PERRY: Aye. 24 MR. ROGAN: Aye. 25 MR. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The 3 ayes have it and so moved. 4 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION - A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER 5 6 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND 7 ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE 8 LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY AUTHORITY AND THE 9 CITY OF SCRANTON PERTAINING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SOLAR POWERED TWO SIDED 10 RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACON SYSTEM AT 11 THE INTERSECTION OF ELM STREET AND THE 12 LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL. 13 14 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll entertain a motion that Item 5-E be 15 16 introduced into its proper committee. 17 MR. ROGAN: So moved. 18 MR. EVANS: Second. 19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? 20 those in favor of introduction signify by 21 saying aye. 22 MR. PERRY: Aye. 23 MR. ROGAN: Aye. 24 MR. EVANS: Aye. 25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1	MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
2	ayes have it and so moved.
3	MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION - A
4	RESOLUTION - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF
5	SCRANTON SUPPORTING THE PROPOSAL TO
6	DESIGNATE A PORTION OF PENNSYLVANIA ROUTE 6
7	AS A PENNSYLVANIA BYWAY.
8	MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
9	entertain a motion that Item 5-F be
10	introduced into its proper committee.
11	MR. ROGAN: So moved.
12	MR. EVANS: Second.
13	MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
14	those in favor of introduction signify by
15	saying aye.
16	MR. PERRY: Aye.
17	MR. ROGAN: Aye.
18	MR. EVANS: Aye.
19	MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.
20	MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
21	ayes have it and so moved.
22	MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.
23	READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
24	82, 2017 – AN ORDINANCE – AMENDING FILE OF
25	THE COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN

ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR 1 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF 2 REAL PROPERTY SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF 3 4 SCRANTON: PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH 5 TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES 6 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING 7 8 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE 9 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND FOUR TENTHS PERCENT (2.4%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017 AND 10 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND 11 12 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER. 13 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading 14 by title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure? MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A 15 pass reading by title. 16 17 MR. EVANS: Second. 18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? A11 19 those in favor signify by saying aye. MR. PERRY: Aye. 20 MR. ROGAN: Aye. 21 22 MR. EVANS: Aye. 23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye. 24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The 25 ayes have it and so moved.

MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 81,
2017 - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A
RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE CURRENTLY OWNED BY
ANOTHER TIME RESTAURANT, LLC T/A AV
RESTAURANT, MOOSIC BOROUGH, LICENSE NO.
R-10827 TO ANOTHER TIME RESTAURANT, LLC T/A

AV RESTAURANT FOR USE AT 320 PENN AVENUE,

SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AS

REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL

MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for the Committee on Finance, I recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

MR. ROGAN: Second.

BOARD.

MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

MR. PERRY: Yes, on the question. I did get a chance, everybody said so many great things about AV restaurant I did go to, which is located in Moosic, which is close to Scranton, and it is fantastic. It was a great place and I'm looking forward to opening day in Scranton.

MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

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1	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.
2	MR. PERRY: Yes.
3	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
4	MR. ROGAN: Yes.
5	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
6	MR. EVANS: Yes.
7	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
8	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
9	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
10	MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
11	declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
12	adopted.
13	MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
14	BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
15	FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 103, 2017 -
16	ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
17	HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
18	("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
19	APPROPRIATENESS FOR DANIEL KOSLOSKI, 526 S.
20	IRVING AVE., SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR
21	INSTALLATION OF GOLD COLORED VINYL STICKERS
22	THAT READ CANDY, LUNCH, COFFEE, SNACKS, AND
23	ABBY'S TO GO IN THE STYLE OF EXISTING
24	LETTERING ON THE BUILDING AND SURROUNDING
25	BUILDINGS AT 150 ADAMS AVE., SCRANTON,

1	PENNSYLVANIA.
2	MR. WECHSLER: What is the
3	recommendation of the Chairperson for the
4	Committee on Community Development?
5	MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
6	Committee on Community Development, I
7	recommend final passage of Item 7-B.
8	MR. EVANS: Second.
9	MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
10	Roll call, please?
11	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.
12	MR. PERRY: Yes.
13	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
14	MR. ROGAN: Yes.
15	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
16	MR. EVANS: Yes.
17	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
18	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
19	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
20	MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
21	declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
22	adopted.
23	MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
24	THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR
25	ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 104, 2017 -

1	ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE
2	HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
3	("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
4	APPROPRIATENESS FOR THOMAS JAWORSKI, 913 S.
5	MAIN AVE., SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR
6	INSTALLATION OF GOLD COLORED VINYL STICKERS
7	THAT READ WRIGHT, REIHNER, MULCAHEY,
8	GROMELSKI, & TUNIS IN THE STYLE OF EXISTING
9	LETTERING ON THE BUILDING AND SURROUNDING
10	BUILDINGS AT 148 ADAMS AVE., SCRANTON,
11	PENNSYLVANIA.
12	MR. WECHSLER: What is the
13	recommendation of the Chairperson for the
14	Committee on Community Development?
15	MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
16	Committee on Community Development, I
17	recommend final passage of Item 7-C.
18	MR. EVANS: Second.
19	MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
20	Roll call, please?
21	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.
22	MR. PERRY: Yes.
23	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
24	MR. ROGAN: Yes.
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MR. EVANS: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted.

MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 105, 2017 -ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR WIDMER SIGN COMPANY, INC., 2209 AMELIA AVE., SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR INSTALLATION OF 6' WIDE BY 4' HIGH AWNING CONSTRUCTED OF MATTE BLACK ALUMINUM WHICH WILL BE LIT WITH SOFT LED LIGHTING WITH A 24" PROJECTION WITH LOWER SECTION OF AWNING TO HAVE POLYCARBONATE PANELS TO ILLUMINATE GRAPHICS/LOGOS WITH ADDITIONAL APPROVAL TO NOT HAVE TO GO BEFORE HARB TO REPLACE SIGNAGE PANEL THAT WILL DISPLAY THE NAME OF THE TENANTS/BUSINESS; APPLICATION MUST BE RESUBMITTED ONLY IF LED

1	LIGHTING AND/OR CHANGES TO AWNING ARE MADE
2	AT 406 SPRUCE ST., SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.
3	MR. WECHSLER: What is the
4	recommendation of the Chairperson for the
5	Committee on Community Development?
6	MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
7	Committee on Community Development, I
8	recommend final passage of Item 7-D.
9	MR. EVANS: Second.
10	MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
11	Roll call, please?
12	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.
13	MR. PERRY: Yes.
14	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
15	MR. ROGAN: Yes.
16	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
17	MR. EVANS: Yes.
18	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
19	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
20	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
21	MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
22	declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully
23	adopted.
24	MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
25	THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -

1	RESOLUTION NO. 106, 2017 - REAPPOINTMENT OF
2	JOSEPH A. RICCARDO, JR., 944 MONROE AVENUE,
3	APARTMENT #1, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18509
4	AS A MEMBER OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION,
5	EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 7, 2016. MR. RICCARDO IS
6	BEING REAPPOINTED TO A TWO (2) YEAR TERM
7	WHICH WILL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 7, 2018.
8	MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
9	the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
10	passage of Item 7-E.
11	MR. ROGAN: Second.
12	MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
13	Roll call, please?
14	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.
15	MR. PERRY: Yes.
16	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.
17	MR. ROGAN: Yes.
18	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.
19	MR. EVANS: Yes.
20	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.
21	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.
22	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.
23	MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
24	declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully
25	adopted.

MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION 1 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS - FOR 2 3 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 107, 2017 -4 AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO 5 SIGN AND SUBMIT THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT 6 7 OF TRANSPORTATION ("PENNDOT") APPLICATION FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL APPROVAL FOR TRAFFIC 8 9 SIGNAL PERMIT NO. 1500 FOR THE MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT 10 NORTH/SOUTH MAIN AVENUE AND JACKSON STREET. 11 12 MR. WECHSLER: What is the 13 recommendation of the Chairperson for the 14 Committee on Public Works? MR. GAUGHAN: As Chairperson for the 15 16 Committee on Public Works, I recommend final 17 passage of Item 7-F. 18 MR. ROGAN: Second. 19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? Roll call, please? 20 21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry. 22 MR. PERRY: Yes. 23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan. 24 MR. ROGAN: Yes. 25 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

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1	MR. EVANS: Yes.	
2	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.	
3	MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.	
4	MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.	
5	MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby	
6	declare Item 7-F legally and lawfully	
7	adopted.	
8	If there is no further business,	
9	I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.	
10	MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.	
11	MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.	
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER